

1) Acknowledge that Someone May Disagree with You

- This someone may be a specific or hypothetical person or group (specific is preferable).
- This someone should be credible and/or reasonable—not a strawman.

2) Summarize the Other Position and Say Why it is Reasonable

- Using sources or examples, briefly summarize why exactly this person disagrees with you and why he or she has a point.
- Be fair; be as neutral as possible.

3) Refute or Argue Against the Other Position with Evidence

- Use evidence and reasoning to say why the other person is nonetheless misguided.
- Use this opportunity to argue for your thesis again.

People who object to paintball criticize its danger and violence. **[1 Acknowledge]** The game's supposed danger gets mentioned a lot. The public seems to have received the impression that paintball guns are simply eye-removing hardware. **[1 Acknowledge Who Is Talking]** It is true that paintball can lead to eye injuries. **[2 Say the Position Is Reasonable]** An article by medical writer Cheryl Guttman in a trade magazine for ophthalmologists warns that eye injuries from paintball are on the rise. **[2 Summarize the Position]** But the fact is that Guttman's article says that only 102 cases of eye injuries from paintballs were reported from 1985 to 2000 and that 85 percent of those injured were not wearing required safety goggles. **[3 Refute With a Hole in the Argument]** This is not to say that accidents don't happen. I personally had a friend lose an eye after inadvertently shooting himself in the eye from a very close range. **[3 Evidence]** The fact of the matter is that he made a mistake by looking down the barrel of a loaded gun, and the trigger malfunctioned. Had he been more careful or worn the proper equipment, he most likely would have been fine. During my first organized paintball experience, I was hit in the goggles by a very powerful gun and felt no pain. **[3 More Evidence]** When played properly, paintball is an incredibly safe sport. **[3 Reinforce Thesis]**

—*Allyn and Bacon Guide to Writing* 339 (Seventh Edition)

Model Sentence Patterns for Counter Arguments

ENTERTAINING OBJECTIONS

Yet some readers may challenge my view that _____. After all, many believe that _____. Indeed, my own argument that _____ seems to ignore _____ and _____.

Of course, many will probably disagree with this assertion that _____.

MAKING CONCESSIONS WHILE STANDING YOUR GROUND

Although I grant that _____, I still maintain that _____.

Proponents of X are right to argue that _____. But they exaggerate when they claim that _____.

While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.

On the one hand, I agree with X that _____. But on the other hand, I still insist that _____.

DISAGREEING WITH REASONS

I think X is mistaken because she overlooks _____.

X's claim that _____ rests on the questionable assumption that _____.

I disagree with X's view that _____ because, as research has shown, _____.

X contradicts herself; on the one hand, she argues _____, but on the other hand, she also says _____.

By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

AGREEING AND DISAGREEING SIMULTANEOUSLY

Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____.

Although I disagree with much of what X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____.

Though I concede that _____, I still insist that _____.

Whereas X provides ample evidence that _____, Y and Z's research on _____ and _____ convinces me that _____ instead.

X is right that _____, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that _____.

While X is probably wrong when she claims that _____, she is right that _____.

I'm of two minds about X's claim that _____. She is right that _____, but she might reconsider _____.

My feelings on this issue are mixed. I do support X's position that _____, but I find Y's argument about _____ and Z's research on _____ to be equally persuasive.